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Project Number 5278

Mr. James X. Shafer
Remedial Project Manager
Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298
Contract Task Order 218

Subject: RAB Meeting Minutes

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes from the May 20, 1998 RAB meeting. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 978-658-7899.

Very truly yours,

Betsy Horne
Community Relations Specialist

BH:b

Enclosures

c: Dr. D. K. Abbass (w/enc.)
Mr. Alfred Arruda, Jr. (w/enc.)
Ms. Barbara Barrow (w/enc.)
Ms. Anne Berman (w/enc.)
Ms. Mary A. Blake (w/enc.)
Dr. David W. Brown (w/enc.)
Mr. Richard D. Coogan (w/enc.)

Mr. James X. Shafer

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c: Mr. Paul M. Cormier (w/enc.)
Mr. Anthony D'Agnenica (w/enc.)
Ms. Beth Everett (w/enc.)
Mr. Mike Foley (w/enc.)
Mr. Byron J. Hall (w/enc.)
Ms. Elizabeth Mathinos (w/enc.)
Mr. Thomas McGrath (w/enc.)
Mr. John Palmieri (w/enc.)
Mr. Howard L. Porter (w/enc.)
Mr. Paul D. Russell (w/enc.)
Mr. Charles Salmond (w/enc.)
Mr. John Torgan (w/enc.)
Ms. Claudette Weissinger (w/enc.)
Ms. Mary Philcox (w/enc.)
Mr. David Egan (w/enc.)
Mr. Tom Nicholson (w/enc.)
Mr. Paul Kulpa, DEM (w/enc.)
Ms. Kymberlee Keckler, EPA (w/enc.)
Capt. Jon Wyman, NETC (w/enc.)
Capt. Bogle, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. James Barden (w/enc.)
Hon. Paul W. Crowley (w/enc.)
Hon. June Gibbs (w/enc.)
Mr. Joseph F. McEnness (w/enc.)
Councilman Dennis McCoy (w/enc.)
Mr. Vincent Arnold (w/enc.)
Dr. David Kim (w/enc.)
Mr. Brian Bishop (w/enc.)
Sister Annie Marie Walsh (w/enc.)
Brother Joseph (w/enc.)
Newport Public Library (w/enc.)
Ms. Joanne Gorman, Middletown Free Library (w/enc.)
Portsmouth Free Public Library (w/enc.)
Mr. Bob Jones, Groton (w/enc.)
Mr. David Sanders, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. David Dorocz, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. Kevin Coyle, NETC (w/enc.)
Ms. Melissa Griffin, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. Woody Monaco, NETC (w/enc.)
Ms. Sarah White, EPA (w/enc.)
Ms. Jennifer Hayes, Gannett Fleming (w/enc.)
Mr. Tim Prior, USF&WS (w/enc.)
Mr. Ken Finkelstein, NOAA (w/enc.)
Mr. R. Boucher, NORTHDIV (w/o enc.)
Ms. Diane McKenna, B&RE, Wilmington (w/enc.)
Mr. Garth Glenn, B&RE, Philadelphia (w/enc.)
Ms. Meg Price, B&RE, Philadelphia (w/o enc.)
File 5278-3.2 w/o enc./9.4 w/enc.

**NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MAY 20, 1998**

MINUTES

On Wednesday, May 20, 1998, the NETC Newport Installation Restoration Program Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) gathered at the NETC Officers' Club for its monthly meeting. The meeting began at 7:10 pm and ended at 9:05 pm.

Ten of the 18 RAB community members attended: Kathy Abbass, David Brown, Dick Coogan, Paul Cormier, Tony D'Agnenica, Beth Everett, Tom McGrath, Howard Porter, Paul Russell, and Claudette Weissinger. Other RAB members attending were: Paul Kulpa, the RIDEM Remedial Project Manager; Kymberlee Keckler, EPA Remedial Project Manager; Todd Bober, representing Jim Shafer, NORTHDIV's Remedial Project Manager; and Captain Jon Wyman, Navy Co-chair. Dave Dorocz and Kevin Coyle were present from the NETC Environmental Division; Pete DuBois represented the Public Affairs Office. Sarah White, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, also attended. Anne Berman, Mary Blake, Byron Hall, and Liz Mathinos provided notice of their absence. Al Arruda, Mike Foley, Chuck Salmond, and John Torgan were not present.

Agenda items are denoted in the minutes by the underscored headings.

CALL TO ORDER

Captain Wyman welcomed the RAB and encouraged the members to continue to fill out the critique sheets. He asked if anyone had changes to the April minutes; Kymberlee Keckler had one correction that she had imparted by e-mail. That change is reflected in a revised page included with the minutes. The minutes were adopted with that change.

Captain Wyman announced that Melissa Griffin had been selected to become the IR program manager at NETC to replace Brad Wheeler. Melissa graduated from Roger Williams College last week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dave Brown stated that he and Tom McGrath, the nominees for community co-chair, had been talking about RAB priorities. These include: encouraging RAB representation from Jamestown, since Gould Island is part of that community; forging links to more Aquidneck Island groups; assisting in promoting speedier cleanup progress; and clarifying resources available for the cleanups. Tom has strong contacts with the local chambers of commerce and other community leaders, and would provide solid meeting facilitation. Since Dave senses he can best serve by continuing his role in planning progress and interpreting technical information, he withdrew his name from further consideration for the position.

Tom indicated he would like to know more about what funds are available to support both RAB activities (which is on tonight's agenda) and site cleanups. He would like RAB meetings to include a 3 minute report on site status that includes comments from EPA and DEM. The third item he would like to initiate are periodic RAB meetings that focus on discussions with local political figures.

Tom McGrath was elected the new community co-chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee - Paul Russell discussed the process for obtaining new community members. Initially, anyone who wished to become a RAB member was made a member. Since then, the Membership Committee has reviewed applications and presented the names to the RAB for a vote. He asked if that process continued to be acceptable.

Comment: Have any applicants been rejected by the committee?

Response: No applicant has been refused membership.

Comment: How many community members are we?

Response: With the two new members we elect this evening, the community membership will be at full strength at 20.

Comment: What is the distribution of members by community?

Response: Portsmouth is under-represented but one of tonight's new members is from that community.

Paul also raised the issue of the continuing membership of the founding community members. The RAB charter, signed in June 1996, provides that 23 months (May 1998) after the RAB is formed that a determination be made as to what members continue for another 2-year term. Betsy will include a declaration form with the draft minutes for those charter members to indicate their intention to remain a community member or to resign.

Claudette Weissinger mentioned that John Torgan has a class on Wednesday evenings, which is why he has not been present. It was suggested that another representative from Save the Bay be asked to replace John on the RAB.

Based on the feedback Paul received, he senses that no change is needed in the membership selection process; he did note, however, that the membership committee could use additional members.

~~Paul offered the names of two new members, Barbara Barrow and John Palmieri, for the~~ RAB's election. They were nominated, seconded, and elected. Barbara is an attorney from Middletown; she is interested in RAB issues because she has three children whose future she is concerned about. John lives in Portsmouth and is a member of the Economic Development Commission. Dick Coogan, who became a member at the April meeting, also introduced himself. He is a retired Navy captain from Middletown, with an interest in the bay cleanup.

He worked for the DEM for 3 years after retiring; he also served as chief engineer for the Middletown schools for 8 years.

Public Information Committee - Claudette Weissinger stated the committee would meet after this meeting to review the draft quarterly newsletter. The committee is still waiting for the list of abutters from PAO. PAO is putting the names on labels. PAO needs to coordinate with Sarah White.

Planning Committee - Dave Brown issued a call for new members now that Tom McGrath has become community co-chair.

The status of site activity was reviewed. The McAllister Point Landfill FS will be issued the end of this month. Sampling is underway at OFFTA. New columnization plates have been deployed in the water column at Derecktor Shipyard; they will be suspended for 45 days to see if anything will grow in them. A small removal action at Building 42 is underway; soil has been excavated and is being analyzed. A meeting with the community was held on the impending implosions at Tank Farm 5. Sampling results on Tank Farm 5 are still under review.

Project Committee - For the sake of the new members, Kathy Abbass stated that her committee has been meeting an hour before the RAB meetings with representatives of the various agencies having a role in the IR program. Tonight they met with Dave Egan, the TAG technical advisor, to discuss how the TAG grantee and technical advisor will interact with the RAB. Kathy mentioned that the pre-meetings will be suspended for the summer so the next session will be in September.

For the new members, Kathy mentioned that one of the roles of her committee was to consider possible projects for the TAPP funds, which program was presented at the last meeting. She is concerned that the Navy is being singled out to clean up Derecktor Shipyard, when other shipyards around the bay are equal environmental challenges. Kathy would like to use TAPP funds to conduct a study of those shipyards. If it finds other shipyards are also a problem, then DEM should require the same level of cleanup there or back off on Derecktor.

Kymberlee stated that because Derecktor is a Superfund site, a certain level of cleanup must occur. It cannot get off the hook. Kathy responded that it makes no sense to her as a taxpayer that Derecktor be singled out. Paul Kulpa said the state has inspectors but that staffing is limited in dealing with these sites. Since Derecktor is a Superfund site, the state has the luxury of having someone else provide sampling data.

Kathy objected to the method used to determine how dirty Derecktor is; comparing samples at Derecktor with samples from pristine areas makes no sense. They should be comparing apples (Derecktor) to apples (other shipyards). Kymberlee stated that the comparison to background levels was necessary to determine risk; which is the method EPA uses to determine cleanup levels at Superfund sites.

PRESENTATION ON THE RAB BUDGET

Dave Dorocz, NETC's Environmental Division Director, presented an overview of the RAB budget; a page of view graphs illustrating the presentation is one of the handouts.

TAPP funds come out of the Navy cleanup budget, not necessarily from NETC's budget. For last year, NETC had \$25,000 to spend on RAB administration; current RAB operating costs based on approximately \$1500 a month will total about \$18,000. The money can be used for administrative support (meeting facilitation, meeting room rental, training) to establish and operate the RAB. RABs must decide what goods and services they need and coordinate requests/ideas through the co-chairs. The RAB Guidance, which is also a handout, discourages using the CLEAN contractor (Tetra Tech NUS) to facilitate meetings. The guidance prohibits spending the money to prepare fact sheets, to travel to attend RAB meetings, to provide a benefit to the general public (as opposed to the RAB specifically), or to allow the CLEAN contractor to provide presentations.

Any funds not spent within the fiscal year must be returned, which will usually reduce an activity's next year's funding. All expenditures are reported to Congress.

Funds expended for the first 6 months of the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997 are: room rental - \$1072, newspaper notices - \$2702, and meeting minutes and logistics - \$3758, totalling \$7532. Based on those costs, an estimate of \$16,570 is forecast for the entire fiscal year.

THE RAB IS REQUESTING AN AGENDA ITEM AT AN UPCOMING MEETING FOR A NAVY REPRESENTATIVE TO PROVIDE A PRESENTATION ON HOW NORTHDIV OBTAINS ITS DERA FUNDS.

Comment: What was the RAB's budget last year?

Response: It was \$30,000, most of which was spent. However, since some money was not spent and had to be returned, the amount provided this year was reduced.

Captain Wyman said he is looking for feedback on how NETC can be more responsive in addressing the RAB's needs.

Comment: RABs at other facilities are doing such things as using the TAG to get information to the public, scheduling site tours, and conducting school programs and open houses.

Comment: Could we publish a newspaper notice?

Response: The funds cannot be used for a public notice, only something that is RAB-specific. Perhaps we could work with PAO to find another route to accomplish that goal.

Dave stated that the existing contract for RAB support will be up in September and that NETC has a variety of contractors through whom services such as facilitators can be obtained. He's looking to the RAB to provide some ideas. Dave also urged the RAB members to read the guidance handout.

Dave asked that the RAB review the proposed distribution list for the quarterly newsletter. It will go to all abutters within 1 mile of any IR site, requesting that they indicate a desire to remain on the mailing list. People who do not respond will have their names removed from the mailing list.

Dave said the draft newsletter (a handout) had been revised to incorporate EPA comments. Once the RAB approves the draft, PAO will have it duplicated professionally and mailed to the distribution list. The newsletter should educate its readers on the CERCLA process, update them on site status and the cleanup timetable, and provide information on the website, which will contain each newsletter volume. In this manner, one can look back at previous editions to determine the pace of cleanup progress.

Comment: How much will the newsletter cost?

Response: Dave will get that information from David Sanders; it should be a low budget item. Dave will inform the co-chair of the costs.

Comment: How often will it be issued?

Response: We are proposing quarterly issues but are open to ideas. PAO sent out a mass mailing that cost under \$500.

Comment: What is the process for the newsletter to be written and published?

Response: We are looking for input from the Public Information Committee and NORTHDIV. The Public Information Committee can take the lead, working with PAO. After they have completed their review, the RAB as a whole will be asked for its comments.

Comment: Will the format change from issue to issue?

Response: Not unless there is a need to do so.

Comment: Could we mesh the newsletter timing with the projected dates of the periodic meetings with political officials?

Response: Yes, or we could always issue a special edition.

Comment: Could a press release be issued to announce the advent of the newsletter since there will not be a public mailing?

Response: Yes. That's a good idea for PAO to pursue.

Comment: Perhaps the chairs of each of the four committees can take turns writing a piece for the newsletter.

Comment: Should the newsletter indicate the future use projected for each site?
Response: No. That information is not in the Master Plan because it has not yet been determined.

Comment: Can the RAB set aside some time for training for new members?
Response: A good idea. Even some of the more senior members might appreciate a refresher course. We will schedule training from 6 to 7 pm before the June RAB meeting. A site visit can be scheduled sometime this summer.

The RAB then made recommendations for changes to the draft newsletter.

NEXT RAB MEETING

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 1998. A training session will be held from 6 to 7. The agenda for the regular meeting, which begins at 7 pm, includes presentations on the McAllister Point Landfill off-shore study (Jim Shafer) and on modifications to the Background Study work plan.

Handouts: RAB Review Dates Calendar
View graphs of the RAB Budget
Guidance for RAB administrative support funding
Revised draft quarterly newsletter
Proposed distribution (of newsletter)
NETC RAB meeting comment sheet

Enclosures: Community member retention ballot (with draft)
NETC RAB Committee Member Roster (with draft)
NETC RAB Community Members (with draft)
Amended page from the April minutes

PRESENTATION ON THE BACKGROUND STUDY WORK PLAN

Steve Parker of Tetra Tech NUS provided a presentation on the NETC soil background work plan. The draft report was forwarded to the regulators last week; committee chairs received copies with their handouts. The purpose of the study is to identify a range of background levels for all SVOCs, pesticides, PCBs, and metals contaminants potentially found on Aquidneck Island that can be used to compare against site-specific data collected from each IR site. Conducting this study NETC-wide as opposed to developing a range for each of the IR sites should reduce the time and cost for each cleanup.

Determining the background (or reference) level involves identifying both the naturally occurring contaminant levels (from rock breakdown and decomposition of organic matter) and those present from widespread industrial/human activity (such as atmospheric fallout, pesticide application, and roadway runoff). Once background ranges are established, they can be compared with IR site data to come up with logical site cleanup levels.

SVOCs include phthalates from plastics residue and PAHs, which are a component of fossil fuels. Pesticides are included because much of western Aquidneck Island once was farm land. PCBs may be present because they are widely found in industrial areas. Natural metals can be present from rock breakdown. Specifically, there seems to be an elevated level of arsenic on the Island that is significantly higher than the state's published average arsenic background level. We need to identify a level more accurately reflecting its actual presence on the Island.

The twenty potential background sample locations are represented by red dots on the view graph. These locations were chosen because these areas have the least amount of physical disturbance based on aerial photographs, a site walk, and discussion with the Navy War College museum curator. Each dot represents an area from 200 to 300 feet across. However, the actual sample will be collected from an area about the size of a fist. To ensure that the results will be accepted by the regulators, we anticipate conducting visits to each sampling area with representatives from EPA and RIDEM. Nearby pine trees can result in high PAH readings; oaks tend to make soil more acidic. Everyone needs to agree on the exact sample location. The precise spots can be marked with a stake after agreement is reached.

The samples will be analyzed and validated to ensure the laboratory analysis was performed correctly. The results will be evaluated to see if there is a normal distribution of data. The 95 percent confidence interval will be determined so we can use the data with a relatively high degree of confidence. The findings will be documented in a stand-alone report that can be used for each IR site.

Comment: What do the dots represent?

Response: They are mix of Navy and non-Navy property. For example, one is at the Melville Ponds Walking Area. Another is at Memorial Park, on town property.

Comment: When do you expect to undertake the project?

Response: The draft work plan was sent to the regulators last week and we anticipate a period for comments. After agreement, the actual sampling could be completed in 2 to 3 weeks. We could have the report a month and a half later.

Comment: Have you talked with entities such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service about soil types that may be present?

Response: Yes. We have lots of data on metals concentrations in soil. In addition, the state has released a list of background concentrations they established based on samples collected in the Providence area. The regulations allow us to establish more precise background levels for areas with different characteristics.

Comment: This is more than an engineering exercise. Soil types can effect drainage, and whether and how contaminant migration may occur. Aquidneck Island has clayey soils. In addition, contaminants can release metals formerly bound to native soil.

Comment: Why are you looking for naturally occurring concentrations?

Response: We need to establish the "upgradient" condition to IR sites to quantify how much contamination exists in the absence of any Navy IR site-specific influence.

Comment: How far are the sampling points from the shoreline? Are some on private property?

Response: They are approximately a quarter mile from the shore. Most are on Navy property.

Comment: Where is the sampling location at the Melville site?

Response: In the area of the ponds near the waterfall.

Comment: Are you taking any samples near the beach at Melville?

Response: No. We want to stay away from known contaminated areas.

Comment: Why aren't you doing a background study for each IR site?

Response: RIDEM's site remediation regulations allow studies to be conducted to better identify local background levels. We plan to use the proposed background analysis for upcoming work at Melville North Landfill. The state's arsenic background number (1.7 ppm) is very conservative, so it is important that we establish local background ranges when conditions here are different from the locations on which the state based its results.

Jim Shafer requested that Paul Kulpa send him a pamphlet the state prepared discussing how the RIDEM background numbers were derived.

Comment: Will you normalize your data to aluminum and iron and/or TOC (interpolate to assess whether contaminants that bind to soils make them less toxic)?